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Directory of College Access & Success Programs

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Resource Highlight:

Directory of College Access & Success Programs

The National Association of College Admission Counseling (NACAC) is a professional organization of more than 15,000 members who serve students as they make choices about pursuing postsecondary education. Since 2013, NACAC has overseen a Directory of College Access & Success Programs. The national database was created to help NACAC members connect with access organizations and learn more about the important role community-based organizations and other groups play in preparing underserved students for college.

As U.S. colleges and universities are continually exploring new and more effective ways to improve diversity in their student populations, the directory may offer some assistance. It was developed primarily to serve college admission officers looking for ways to reach a diverse pool of well-prepared, college-ready students and prospective applicants. The design of the directory, especially in its mobile application, allows counselors to target specific geographic areas. For instance, an admission rep visiting a particular city might consult the directory and make plans to visit one or more of the listed organizations in addition to the secondary



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schools already on his or her list. We believe that connecting postsecondary institutions with access and success programs helps all concerned by introducing students to colleges and helping colleges identify students who are prepared to succeed.

NACAC also hopes that the directory can be a resource for parents and families looking for local programs that might offer students some



National Association for
College Admission Counseling

additional academic help and advising in preparation for the transition to college. The programs listed in the directory are all non-profit, are free of charge to

students, and offer ongoing programming to students from diverse backgrounds. Some work primarily with first-generation students and refugees, others with students in foster care, while still others serve students on a first come, first served basis. The programs within the directory aim to prepare students not just to get into college, but to succeed at college. Test prep and financial aid literacy, as well as study skills classes, extracurricular programming, and supplementary academic programming are just some of the offerings of the many programs in the directory. Many



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provide support that continues through college graduation. At present, the directory isn't heavily marketed to students, but as the directory grows, student use may as well.

NACAC highlights the directory through a regular feature in *The Journal of College Admission*, with an article spotlighting the work of one community-based organization (CBO) per issue. The association also continues to promote the database to our members through ads and on the NACAC webpage. The directory now contains roughly 525 entries, which is only a fraction of the total number of college access and success organizations in the U.S. We hope to grow that number through promotional efforts and by word of mouth. Each time new programs are added to the directory, the resource becomes more valuable to NACAC members and to students seeking assistance in their transition to college. 